



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,400	12/18/2000	Robert Delee Bones	AUS920000798US1	5848

35525 7590 11/24/2004

IBM CORP (YA)
C/O YEE & ASSOCIATES PC
P.O. BOX 802333
DALLAS, TX 75380

EXAMINER

HENNING, MATTHEW T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2131

DATE MAILED: 11/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/740,400	Applicant(s) BONES ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew T Henning	Art Unit 2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2131

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on August 16, 2004.

Begin Action Dated May 14, 2004

2. Claims 1-57 have been examined.

Title

3. The title of the invention is acceptable.

Priority

4. No claim for priority has been made for this application.
5. The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this application is 12/20/2000.

Information Disclosure Statement

6. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on May 30, 2001 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Drawings

7. The drawings filed on July 12, 2001 are acceptable for examination proceedings.

Specification

8. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to for the following reasons:

The phrase "is provided" of line 1 can be implied and therefore must be removed.

The title of the invention listed at the top of the abstract is not in accordance with

Title 37 C.F.R. 1.72 and therefore must be removed.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

9. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Art Unit: 2131

Page 6 Line 17 recites "O Of course," which is grammatically incorrect.

Appropriate correction is required.

10. The applicant is advised to check for other spelling and grammatical errors throughout the specification. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

12. Claims 1-14, 20-33, 39-52 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by He (U.S. Patent 5,944,824) hereinafter referred to as He.

13. Claim 1 recites changing the SSO password in response to receiving a change instruction. He disclosed a programmed method and system for changing passwords in a Single Sign-On (SSO) environment (See He Col. 13 Paragraphs 3-7). He disclosed that in response to a request to modify a user account (See He Col. 13 Lines 12-13) a new password is generated (See He Col. 13 Lines 20-22) and the old password is set to the new password (See He Col. 13 Lines 43-45).

Claim 1 further recites retrieving and modifying a target password. He disclosed retrieving the target password (See He Col. 13 Lines 22-25). He Further disclosed changing a target NE password to the specified new password (See He Col. 13 Lines 31-35).

Art Unit: 2131

14. Regarding claims 2-4, He disclosed providing the modified password target password to the network element, or client (See He Col. 10 Paragraphs 2-3). It is inherent that the password was first stored in order for it to have been provided in the ticket, as is specified by He (See He Col. 10 Lines 16-21).

15. Regarding claims 5, 8-9, He disclosed password generation by a random number generator or by manually entering the password (See He Col. 13 Paragraph 4). Because this task was carried out by the network security administrator (See He Col. 13 Paragraph 3), it was inherent that a menu was provided such that the password generation method could be chosen.

16. Regarding claims 6-7, He disclosed users using one password for multiple applications (See He Col. 1 Paragraph 5).

17. Regarding claim 10, He disclosed random password generation being performed in a server (See He Col. 11 Lines 40-41).

18. Regarding claim 11, He disclosed the use of password policy in generating the random passwords (See He Col. 12 Paragraph 2). It is inherent that the password policy was determined in order for it to have been used.

19. Regarding claim 12-14, He disclosed different types of passwords. He disclosed standard user passwords (See He Col. 11 Paragraph 2), network element passwords (See He Col. 8 Paragraph 8), and Super-User passwords (See He Col. 8 Paragraph 8). It was inherent that each of these groups had some sort of password policy to be checked against (See He Col. 12 Paragraph 2).

20. Regarding claims 20-33, He disclosed a programmed method and system for changing passwords in a Single Sign-On (SSO) environment (See He Claims 1 and 5). Because He

Art Unit: 2131

claimed a programmed method to be run in a network, it was inherent that the method comprised a computer program product in computer readable media. Claims 20-33 are therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied to claims 1-14 above.

21. Regarding claims 39-52, He disclosed a programmed method and system for changing passwords in a Single Sign-On (SSO) environment (See He Claims 1 and 5). Claims 39-52 are therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied to claims 1-14 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

22. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

23. Claims 15, 34, and 53 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over He as applied to claims 5, 24, and 43 respectively above, and further in view of Redpath (U.S. Patent 5,854,629) hereinafter referred to as Redpath.

He disclosed password generation by a random number generator or by manually entering the password (See He Col. 13 Paragraph 4). However, He failed to disclose the use of a Graphical User Interface (GUI) for implementing this selection.

Redpath teaches the GUIs were created in order to simplify interaction with computer programs for end users of computer programs, such that end users do not need to know specific commands in order to effectively use the computer program (See Redpath Col. 1 Paragraph 2).

Art Unit: 2131

It would have been obvious to the ordinary person skilled in the art at the time of invention to employ the teachings of Redpath in the invention of He such that the user is supplied a GUI menu in order to select a password generation method. This would have been obvious because the ordinary person skilled in the art would have been motivated to provide a simple interface for the user to interact with the password-changing program.

24. Claims 16, 35, and 54 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over He as applied to claims 1, 20, and 39 respectively above, and further in view of Prafullchandra (U.S. Patent 5,734,718) hereinafter referred to as Prafullchandra.

He disclosed retrieving and changing target passwords (See He Col. 13 Paragraphs 3-7), but He failed to disclose a change target password policy. However, He did disclose that having different administrative policies in individual network elements can be problematic (See He Col. 1 Paragraph 5).

Prafullchandra teaches that requiring users to change passwords at predetermined intervals can enhance system security (See Prafullchandra Col. 2 Paragraph 3).

It would have been obvious to the ordinary person skilled in the art at the time of the invention to employ the password aging and changing policy of Prafullchandra to the password changing system and method of He. This would have been obvious because the ordinary person skilled in the art would have been motivated to enhance the security in the network of He.

25. Claims 17-19, 36-38, 55-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of He and Prafullchandra as applied to 16, 35, and 54 respectively above.

He disclosed different types of passwords. He disclosed standard user passwords (See He Col. 11 Paragraph 2), network element passwords (See He Col. 8 Paragraph 8), and Super-User passwords (See He Col. 8 Paragraph 8).

It would have been obvious to the ordinary person skilled in the art at the time of invention to employ the aging policy of Prafullchandra to all the types of passwords of He. This would have been obvious because the ordinary person skilled in the art would have been motivated to enhance the security of all the passwords, regardless of their type.

Conclusion

26. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Limsico (U.S. Patent 5,793,952) disclosed a secure remote password graphic interface with the ability to change passwords.
- b. Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,144,959) disclosed a method for managing user accounts in a distributed network.
- c. Olkin (U.S. Patent 5,768,503) disclosed a middleware authentication and security mechanism.
- d. Dare et al. (U.S. Patent 5,684,950) disclosed a method of authentication via SSO.
- e. Cohen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,178,511) disclosed an SSO mechanism for coordinating user target logons.
- f. Birnbaum (U.S. Patent 5,797,128) disclosed a hierarchical policy for computer system administration.
- g. Fang et al. (U.S. Patent 6,243,816) disclosed a SSO key manager.

End Action Dated may 14, 2004

Response to Amendment

Priority

27. As noted in the response by applicant dated August 16, 2004, the effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this application is 12/18/2000.

Specification

28. In response to applicant's amendments, the objections to the specification are withdrawn.

29. Response Page 2 recites an amended paragraph replacement from Page 6 Line 15 – Page 16 Line 29, which is believed to be a mistake and will be taken to mean Page 6 Line 15 – Page 6 Line 29.

Response to Arguments

30. Applicant traverses primarily that He did not disclose a change instruction identifying a first SSO password, changing the first SSO password to create a second SSO password, and modifying a target password, in a user selected manner, to match the second SSO password to create a modified target password. Applicant traverses that He did not disclose changing a SSO password at all, but instead changing a super user password.

31. The examiner has considered all of the arguments set forth by the applicant, and respectfully maintains the rejection of claims 1-57 set forth in the first action on the merits, dated May 14, 2004.

32. Regarding the argument that He does not disclose changing SSO passwords, He disclosed that at least one super user has SSO capability (See He Col. 8 Lines 47-49). If the super user was a SSO super user, then changing the passwords of the super user, as disclosed in Col. 13 Paragraphs 3-7, must have involved changing SSO passwords, as specifically discussed below.

Art Unit: 2131

33. Regarding the arguments against the rejections of claims 1, 20, and 39, He disclosed a method in a data processing system for changing a plurality of target passwords in a single sign-on environment (See He Col. 13 Paragraphs 3-7), comprising the steps of:

in response to receiving a change instruction (See He Col. 13 Lines 26-28 wherein, although not specifically called a change instruction, it is implied that this message is a change instruction by sending a current password, and a new password, and by which in response to receiving this message the password of the Super-User is changed) identifying a first single sign-on password (See He Col. 13 Lines 27-28 wherein the message identifies the present password, which constitutes the first- SSO password), changing the first single sign-on password to create a second single sign-on password (See He Col. 13 Lines 34-35 wherein “a new one” constituted the second SSO password to which the present password was changed);

retrieving a target password (See He Col. 13 Lines 22-25 wherein the Super user present password is retrieved);

and modifying the target password in a user selected manner to match the second single sign-on password to create a modified target password (See He Col. 13 Lines 38-39 wherein in the present password in the retrieved record was modified to match the new password.

Although, He did not specifically disclose a “modified target password”, after the present password was changed to match the new password, it constituted a modified present password because it was different than it was when the process started. Also, in Col. 13 Lines 20-22, He disclosed that new passwords could be generated manually, which constitutes a user-defined manner.)

Art Unit: 2131

34. The examiner maintains the rejections of 2-14, 21-33, and 42-52 as being anticipated by He as discussed in the examiner's action dated May 14, 2004, due to the examiner's response to the applicants arguments against claims 1, 29, and 39.

35. The examiner maintains the rejections of claims 15, 34, and 53 as being obvious over He in view of Redpath as discussed in the examiner's action dated May 14, 2004, due to the examiner's response to the applicant's arguments against claims 1, 29, and 39.

36. The examiner maintains the rejections of claims 16, 35, and 54 as being obvious over He in view of Prafullchandra as discussed in the examiner's action dated May 14, 2004, due to the examiner's response to the applicant's arguments against claims 1, 29, and 39.

37. The examiner maintains the rejections of claims 17-19, 36-38, and 55-57 as being obvious over He in view of Prafullchandra as discussed in the examiner's action dated May 14, 2004, due to the examiner's response to the applicant's arguments against claims 1, 29, and 39.

Conclusion

38. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,


Art Unit: 2131

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


39. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Matthew Henning whose telephone number is (703) 305-0713. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm, EST.

40. If attempts to reach examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh, can be reached at (703) 305-9648. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 305-3718.

41. Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Matthew Henning
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2131
11/15/04



AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100